

5 February 2015

Dear European Energy Ministers,

A European Energy Union for Electricity

The forthcoming strategic framework on the Energy Union is a welcome opportunity for shaping the future direction of Europe's energy policy. **A smart, interconnected and resilient electricity system will be critical to delivering the Energy Union's objectives of affordable, secure and sustainable energy.**

Electricity infrastructure is becoming even more fundamental for Europe's energy security as the energy mix decarbonises, as electricity will increasingly be used to heat Europe's buildings and power Europe's transport.

At the October 2014 European Council, Member States recognised the importance of electricity interconnections in achieving a fully connected internal energy market and in meeting the EU's climate and energy targets. Heads of States and Governments called for urgent measures to ensure achievement of a minimum 10% interconnection target by 2020, and the objective of arriving at a 15% target by 2030.

The Energy Union offers the opportunity for these political ambitions to be turned into a reality. **The strategic framework on Energy Union should include a concrete action plan for delivering European electricity infrastructure objectives.**

Specifically, the Energy Union agenda should address the key challenges in developing a smart and interconnected European electricity system, and should:

- > Establish a clear political direction for the development of electricity infrastructures;
- > Ensure regulatory regimes and attractive financing instruments fit for purpose in driving grid investments;
- > Actively foster public support;
- > Simplify the permitting challenge;
- > Propose a clear framework to address allocation of costs and benefits across borders when needed;
- > Encourage the development of electricity interconnections with Europe's neighbours.

Yours sincerely

